

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention easily implements a virtual copying machine by connecting a scanner and printer on a network. When a passive scanner and passive printer are connected through a proxy device, the device profiles of the devices are collected to generate a transfer path profile. By referring to the transfer path profile, the proxy device issues an input request to the scanner to cause it read an image, receives the image data, issues an output request to the printer, and transfers the data received from the scanner to the printer to cause it to print the data.